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#9 Response
M. Brunson
5/4/02

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Yukio KUROIWA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/765,378

Group Art Unit: 2876

Confirmation No.: 1049

Examiner: A. Kim

Filed: January 22, 2001

For: MAGNETIC CARD READER AND METHOD OF DEMODULATING MAGNETIC DATA

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 30, 2002, please consider the remarks as submitted herewith.

Claims 1-5 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyashita (US 5,397,883) in view of Ohno et al. (US 5,424,523) and Nakamima (US 5,408,531).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as set forth below.

Applicant submits that the applied references fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claims. The Examiner admits that the primary reference Miyashita does not teach or suggest reading a ticket from multiple reading heads from the same side. Thus, the Examiner cites Ohno as disclosing this limitation. However, Applicant disagrees with the Examiner for the following reasons.

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Ohno's invention is directed to an automatic ticket-examining gate apparatus. The Examiner alleges that the reading magnetic heads 11, 17a, 17b, and 19 are arranged on one side and the reading magnetic heads 12, 18a, 18b, and 20 are arranged on the other side. However, as disclosed in column 6, lines 22-30 and column 7, lines 10-32, these reading magnetic heads are different from each other in reading data, while the plural magnetic heads are arranged in the same side. More specifically, read head 12 reads encoded magnetic information recorded in the first magnetic record layer 2b, while read head 18a/18b reads the character pattern from the second layer 2c. Also, read head 20 reads the encoded magnetic information recorded by the write head 14. Clearly, the cited excerpts disclose that read heads 12 and 20 read different data than read head 18a/18b. Furthermore, since read head 20 reads data written by write head 14, the data read by read head 20 differs from the data read by read head 12. This is the case, because the data written by write head 14 is written after read head 12 reads its data. The read and write heads on the opposite side of the magnetic card in Ohno's device have the same features. Thus, Ohno does not disclose or suggest two magnetic heads arranged in a direction, in which each of the magnetic heads relatively moves with respect to the magnetic card, and taking the same data from the magnetic card and obtaining two demodulated data, as required by independent claim 1.

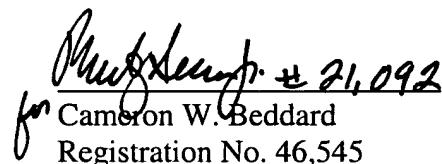
Since Nakajima fails to make up for this deficiency of the other references, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-5 are believed to be allowable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,


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